

and MBL Technologies, Inc., of Rockville, MD, Creative Computing Solutions, Inc. of Rockville, MD, and CPS Professional Services of Fairfax, VA, EMJ Corporation of Sacramento, CA, and 347 Group Construction of Roseville, CA, The George Solitt Construction Co. of Wood Dale, IL, and Industria, Inc. of Chicago, IL, The GRD Contractors, Inc. of Costa Mesa, CA, and Hubzone Corp. of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Harris Corporation GCSO of Melbourne, FL, and Delta Corporation of Fulton, MD, Health Net Federal Services of Rancho Cordova, CA, and Three Wire Systems of Vienna, VA, ICF Incorporated of Fairfax, VA, and Nova Technology Solutions of Fairborn, OH, JOB Options, Inc. of San Diego, CA, and VETSUSA, LLC. of Falls Church, VA, Leopardo Companies, Inc. of Hoffman Estates, IL, and Segovia Group Corporation of San Antonio, TX, Lockheed Martin Corporation of Fairfax, VA, and Fulcrum Vets, LLC of Fairfax, VA, Marous Brothers Construction of Willoughby, OH, and Northstar Contracting, Inc. of North Olmstead, OH, McKesson Corporation of San Francisco, CA, and The Stay Safe Store of El Dorado Hills, CA, Metters Industries of McLean, VA, and Global Technology Solutions, LLC. of Corrales, NM, Northrup Grumman Corporation of Rockville, MD, and Heitech Services, Inc. of Landover, MD, Reva, Inc. of Newark, NJ, and M.E.R.I.T. Inc. of Newark, NJ, The Robins and Morton Group of Birmingham, AL, and Coburn Contractors of Montgomery, AL, Roy Anderson Corp. of Gulfport, MI, and the Bacik Group, LLC. of Columbus, GA, Sargent Electric Co. of Pittsburgh, PA, and SGT LLC. Of Pittsburgh, PA, Secom Technical Services of Oak Ridge, TN, and Clauss Construction of Lakeside, CA, Simplex Grinnel of Columbia, MD, and Emergency Planning Management of Stafford, VA, Swinerton Government Services of Arvada, CO, and R.E.M. Engineering Company, Inc. of Pasadena, CA.

By fostering an environment where veteran entrepreneurs can grow their businesses, we affirm our commitment to those who have sacrificed so much. I encourage VA to strengthen the growing Mentor-Protégé Program and look forward to working with them to achieve their goals.

RESPONSIBLE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise to make remarks on the introduction of the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act. I would like to thank Senators SHERROD BROWN and LISA MURKOWSKI for joining me in this bipartisan effort, as well as the House sponsors, Representatives GENE GREEN, MIKE THOMPSON, STEVEN LATOURETTE, and LEE TERRY.

Significant amounts of U.S. electronic waste are currently exported to developing countries that handle the waste in an unsafe manner. Much of

this waste contains toxic materials, such as lead and mercury, and the workers who disassemble and process the electronics use crude, unsafe methods that can lead to health problems. This legislation would put an end to these dangerous practices. The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act would restrict the export of electronic waste, help boost the U.S. recycling industry, and support efforts to domestically recover rare earth materials found in electronics.

The United States is the only developed country that has not ratified the Basel Convention, which prohibits exports of hazardous waste to developing countries. Under the convention, much of the U.S. exportation of electronic waste to developing countries is illegal under the laws of the receiving countries but unfortunately, these laws are poorly enforced.

If we recycled these materials in the U.S., it would create recycling jobs for U.S. workers. Companies recycling in the U.S. often operate under capacity because they cannot compete with the cheaper option of exporting electronic waste to developing countries. We should be processing this waste using U.S. workers, and many companies stand at the ready to begin recycling additional electronic waste.

Moreover, the dumping of used electronics in the developing world can come back to haunt us. Some countries have active underground markets for U.S. hard drives, contributing to identity theft, as documented in a 2009 Frontline investigation. Business Week reported in 2010 that used computer chips from old personal computers are fraudulently re-marked in China as "military grade" chips and sold to U.S. military suppliers. Given the risks to our armed forces from defective equipment, I have also introduced the Combating Military Counterfeits Act to enhance the ability of prosecutors to keep counterfeit goods out of the military supply chain.

One of the benefits of recycling electronic waste domestically is the potential to recover rare elements in the process. Rare earth materials are vital to a number of manufacturing processes, including for products such as hybrid car batteries and solar panels, yet prices have skyrocketed as global supply has tightened. According to the Department of Energy, recycled content from electronics could be a valuable secondary source of rare earth materials, but additional research is required on recovery techniques and collection of electronic waste. This act would establish the Rare Earth Materials Recycling Research Initiative at the Department of Energy to coordinate research into the recovery of rare earth materials used in electronics.

The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act would also address the health, environmental, and national security concerns by amending the Solid Waste Disposal Act to prohibit the export of electronic waste to developing

countries, with certain exceptions. These exceptions include legitimate exports of tested and working equipment, warranty returns, and recalls. There is also a de minimis exception to allow the export of materials that have so little toxicity they would not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Exporting under the exceptions would require a license and notice to the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional restrictions apply to exports for warranties or recalls, including written consent from the receiving country. The act creates a criminal penalty for knowingly exporting electronic waste, and provides the EPA the authority to inspect establishments handling electronic waste.

Twenty-five States, including Rhode Island, have passed electronic waste recycling laws. States such as Rhode Island already seek to ensure that their downstream recyclers do not export the electronic waste but instead responsibly recycle it here in the U.S. But States can only do so much and a federal law is needed to restrict these harmful exports.

We are pleased to have the support of a number of electronics manufacturers and retailers, including Hewlett Packard, Dell, Apple, Samsung, and Best Buy. We are also pleased to have the endorsement of 29 recyclers representing 74 recycling operations in 34 states. The breadth of our coalition is a testament to the consensus that the harmful export of these products must stop.

With more and more Americans relying on new technologies and generating a growing amount of electronic waste each year, we must take steps to properly dispose of this material. This legislation will crack down on the dumping of electronic waste on developing countries, protect American consumers from counterfeit schemes and identity theft, and support the growth of electronic waste recycling jobs in Rhode Island and across the country.

REMEMBERING JOHN MACKEY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Baltimore lost one of its most beloved adopted sons last night, former Baltimore Colt tight end John Mackey. John revolutionized the position and was the second tight end to be enshrined in the National Football League's, NFL, Hall of Fame. He became the first president of the NFL Players Association, NFLPA, after the NFL merged with the old American Football League. He was a tenacious and effective advocate for the players, bargaining for higher salaries and better benefits. He organized a 3-day strike early in his tenure that generated an additional \$11 million in pensions and benefits. Mackey also filed and won an antitrust lawsuit against the NFL which eliminated the so-called "Rozelle Rule" and ultimately paved the way for players' union to secure full free agency for its members.